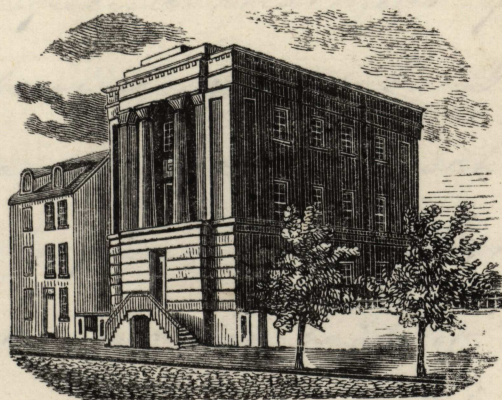


AN ESSAY ON

Gout, its History & Treatment

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF THE



HOMOEOPATHIC MEDICAL COLLEGE

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On the Thirtieth day of January, Eighteen Hundred and  
Fifty-eight.

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Yaws. (framboesia.)

It may seem strange that I should select for the subject of my Thesis a disease unknown in our country but the fact that a specific treatment for the disease has been discovered by Dr. J. E. Howard of Cuba, one of our own school, has induced me to present a dissertation on the subject. Hoping that it may be acceptable to the faculty, from its novelty, if not from its utility.

The African name Yaws (which signifies a raspberry) is given to a disease the characteristic symptom of which consists in a warty eruption or excrescence on the face, which resembles in many respects the fruit named.

Now if any of the modern works



our Practice make mention of this disease and but little seems known of it beyond the Countries to which it is endemic, It is called by the French *Péan* or *Epéan*, by the Spanish *Bubos*, and by the Portuguese *Bobas*;

Craigue in his "Pathological Anatomy," defines it to be a Chronic inflammation of the corion, taking in circumscribed spots, attended partly with death of a portion of the corial substance — partly with growth of granular fungi. — the result of a peculiar morbid poison. He also states that in regard to this disease much misconception has prevailed, which has been owing chiefly to the erroneous notions, to which its station in the arrangement



of Cullen gave birth. These were first corrected in 1791 by Dr J. A. Lindford, who showed that Yaws is a true cutaneous inflammation, which though more chronic, yet like Small Pox, and other cutaneous eruptions preceded by febrile motions; and observes regular periods of accession, height, and decline.

There is a great resemblance between this disease and the Scurvis of the Scotch, which though a disease affecting not only the skin but the fibro-mucous membrane, causes cutaneous inflammation not dissimilar to that of Yaws. Like most inflammations depending upon the action of a morbid poison, when it affects the constitution it induces inflammation of the corium in the shape of furuncular tubercles, and ulcers.



and of pustular sores affording the raspberry granulating fungus.

There is also a more striking resemblance between Taws, and Syphilis when the latter disease first made its appearance in Europe in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century. We learn from Authors of the time, "That the characteristic symptoms of this disease consisted in granular fungi on the skin principally on the face, which were hideous from their number, size, and the ichorous and foetid matter they discharged, These fungi terminated in desquamation and frequently horrible ulcerations of the skin." From these symptoms the name "Verole or Pox" was adopted in France for Syphilis. Nothing could more closely resemble this eruption, or excrescence than



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the jaws - And they resemble it also in the following symptoms, the eruption on the face spreads itself by degrees over the whole body producing ulcerations in different parts. It attacks the bones producing pains exostosis caries, and abundant discharges of purulent matter from the eyes, nose, and ears.

Jaws are invariably preceded by more or less indisposition - languor, pain in the limbs like those of Rheumatism, chilliness or shiverings succeeded by general heat, and uneasiness amounting in most cases to fever, and always more or less severe and distinct in children than in adults.

The first trace of eruption is a white mealy scurf, covering the whole cutaneous surface, after a few days, firm pimples are seen on the forehead, face and neck, and



around the anus. These increase from 6 to 10 days when their tops become covered by a crust and an opaque whitish fluid. Thus converted into pustules they gradually enlarge, still covered by loose and irregular crusts, until they attain the size of a sixpence or shilling. The largest being in general those which appear first. If this crust be removed it exposes a foul sloughy sore, or according to Adams, a rough whitish surface, consisting partly of slough partly of living animal matter. The pustules may burst spontaneously and discharge a thick viscid matter, which hardens into a foul scab on the surface. In the large pustules on this surface at length shoots up a red granulated excrescence composed of minute lobes not unlike a wild



rasp or mulberry, which is the proper yaw  
and gives the disease its peculiar appearance  
and character.

Its size varies according to that of the  
pustule from which it rises, from a pea to  
a mulberry of considerable dimensions.

Its colour varies according to that of the gen-  
eral health of the subject, In the robust  
and healthy it is red like a piece of flesh  
and prominent, in the weakly and puny  
it is pale and white like a piece of Cauli-  
flower, not elevated but bleeds at the slight-  
est touch.

The Yaw fungus has little sensibility  
and does not smart when Capsicum juice  
is applied, never suppurates perfectly but  
discharges a solid glutinous fluid which  
dries into a scab around the edges of the



excrescence, and cover its upper part if much elevated with white sloughs, This glutinous fluid is the proper yawey matter and communicates the disease by inoculation.

The time at which the fungus granulations rise is irregular, "Thomson met it at as early as one month, and as late as three months, after the first appearance of the eruption, and concluded its formation cannot be taken as a mark of the second stage of the disease as was thought by Adams, in his work on Morbid Poisons,

Each pustule as it attains a certain size undergoes the same process, After remaining some time the Yaw gradually contracts diminishes in height; and as the pustule is finally covered by skin.



It leaves in general no mark except in those places in which the inflammation has been violent, where a scar similar to that of Cowpock, but broader and more superficial is left. This description shows not only that Yaws are an inflammatory disease of the skin, but that they are not strictly speaking an example of tubercular disease of that membrane, as in the arrangement of Willan they are erroneously represented. The phenomena show they consist in an inflammatory process of the Corion commencing in minute points, and gradually spreading in extent and penetrating in depth, till it generates a peculiar morbid product which after undergoing certain changes is at length spontaneously removed and



allows the sore to heal,

"Thomson justly remarks that the disease is first papular, then pustular, and afterwards consists of yaw, though the latter is not constant, as the ulcer may heal without this substance, when it may be accounted pustular."

At no period does it appear to be tubercular for the Yawey growth to which alone the term is applied is rather the effect of the pustular or Chronic corial inflammation modified by the proper yawey action,

"It may in short be inferred that when the yawey action is sufficient without being excessive it generates the <sup>perp</sup> fungus growths under which <sup>the</sup> corion is either not materially injured or is



regenerated. If the action is too violent this growth is either destroyed or prevented, from appearing and in either case the cor-  
 on is irreparably injured.

The above description of the disease chiefly one of a mild form. It is very prevalent now in the West Indies and South America, chiefly among the negroes, and is endemic to Africa especially to the Gold Coast. It is one of most disgusting diseases imaginable.

The whole body in some cases breaks out in large ulcers, the patient reduced to a mere skeleton, and is incapable of attending to any duty. It is very contagious and the person attacked must be immediately separated from the rest, or in a few days it will spread through the



whole of the family. An adult having been attacked with it seldom or ever recovers his health entirely under Old School treatment, owing no doubt to the large quantities of mercury administered. At every change of weather he suffers bone pains. In some cases atrophy of one or more of the members and in others temporary paralysis of upper and lower extremities.

What is peculiar and remarkable about this disease is that a species of inoculation takes place from the bite of small flies, which abounds throughout the West Indian Islands, (Cuba especially), and make their appearance early in the morning and after sunset in numbers.



They communicate the virus to a healthy person after having rested upon one affected with the disease, and thus it spreads rapidly a whole population or district.

The disease in these cases is only local and the cure is generally prompt except when the eruption has lasted long enough to produce ulceration, in which case it acts like the Syphilitic virus, becomes absorbed, the system becomes affected and then it is a constitutional disease.

Another remarkable fact is that the person attacked is never affected a second time, and hence the Negro women are in the habit of inoculating their children with the virus, the disease then makes its appearance in seven



or eight days in a mild form, passes off and the child is protected for life.

It appears from these observations that the virus of the Yaws acts in the same manner as that of Syphilis, and other poisons which affect the human body, can be absorbed in the system and remain more or less time latent manifesting themselves by the following symptoms = Great weakness and prostration of spirits, headache, loss of sight, paralysis, dyspepsia, asthma, flying pains followed by more or less fever and then by the appearance of the eruption.

The Old school treatment consists in anti-syphilitics, mercury being the principal remedy, & the poor patients



are frequently sufferers for life. The Old School Physicians consider it in a great many cases incurable. While the Physicians of our School cure it in every stage provided the patient had not previously been under the Old School treatment.

Their treatment scarcely ever amounts to more than palliation or a transformation of a single disorder or disease into another, and rarely arrives at a radical cure unless it acts unconsciously upon the Homoeopathic law.

In no class of disorders is the superiority of the Homoeopathic law "Similia Similibus Curantur" shown than in Eruptive diseases. In this disease the Old School treatment by external applications, often drives it by metastasis to the Brain



and other organs, thus either producing death or laming the patient for life.

With the horrible effects of Mercury alone in such cases a volume might be written. But it is needless to go over the ground, so ably done by others.

Allopathy by recognising merely local diseases and treating them in consequence of this frequently by local means alone, rarely arrives at a permanent cure, in such cases but sets up other constitutional diseases which they find themselves unable to cure. While the Homoeopath not recognising the existence of merely local diseases, but maintaining that every disease with a few trifling exceptions is an affection of the whole organism



and that therefore in order to arrive at a speedy and radical cure should be treated by remedial agents acting on the whole frame and not by local means alone. Hence the superiority of the Homoeopathic treatment not only in this disease but in all others.

The principal remedies found useful in the treatment of Parotitis were Thuja. The different preparations of Mercury, Nitric acid, &c.

Dr J. E. Leonard of Cuba by whom I am indebted for the treatment and who has met with the greatest success, mentions that he found in every instance in which Thuja was used from the commencement of the attack. He never failed to cure the case, it is



indicated by the following symptoms  
viz. - When the eruption commences  
with itching, burning and pricking in  
the parts affected, with excrescences over  
the face, hands and body first dry then  
moist and suppurating, red granu-  
lations which discharge thick viscid mat-  
ter, and which hardens on the surface.  
The excrescences bleed easily, and to the  
slightest touch. Painfull feeling in  
the articular extremities of long bones  
aggravated by the least motion, accom-  
panied by inflammation of the  
affected spot, and drawing and tension  
in the limbs and joints.

Mercury cures & cures in second stage.  
When the eruption or granulations  
enlarge and present a foul and



sloughy sore and discharges a thick viscid matter, the excrescence is pale and prominent and bleeds easily. When the eruption puts on a disposition to spread over a large surface. Throbbing pains over the whole body, heaviness of the limbs weakness and giving way of the knees restlessness towards evening and pains become intolerable in bed at night.

Nitric Acid is indicated, if the patient has been under Old School treatment, and also in 2<sup>d</sup> stage. for pains in all the bones. when symptoms are worse towards evening, for drawing pains especially, Ptyalism &c.

Cinnabaris, also in second stage has been found efficacious in relieving the bone pains, and when the patient



feels drowsy, and unable to think, is  
dull, + ataxic, + when Mercurius Sol.  
and virus fail,

For the usual sympathetic symptoms  
arising from the disease, according  
to the organ or organs affected, so will  
other remedies be indicated, but it is  
unnecessary to mention them.

Louis J. Howard,

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for the

Degree of Doctor of Medicine

by

J. Harrison Knighton

of

Massachusetts.

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